

House District 23

Les Gara, Democrat



DATE OF BIRTH: February 2, 1963
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York, New York
NAME OF SPOUSE: Kelly
RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 1242 West 10th Avenue
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OCCUPATION: Attorney, writer

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 14 years
Anchorage August 1989 to present
Fairbanks August 1988-August 1989

EDUCATION:
Freeport High School, 1977-1981, Diploma; Boston University.
1981-1985, B.A.; Harvard Law School, 1985-1988, J.D.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Law clerk for Justice Jay Rabinowitz, Alaska Supreme Court;
Assistant Attorney General.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:
Board, Alaska Public Interest Group; member, Alaska Flyfishers
Association; Cooper Creek Restoration Project Representative.

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Fishing, rafting, fly-tying.

STATEMENT:

For a decade we have seen the most short-sighted legislative majority in state history. As I knocked on doors this past year I heard a common theme. The politics of the past do not work. You rightly told me that hard work and an open mind will solve 80% of our problems. I agree.

A Legislature that focuses on emotional issues, but ignores the 116,000 Alaskans who don't have health insurance and grave problems affecting education, senior care, foster care, and our state parks is unacceptable. Pretending a billion dollar deficit doesn't exist is unacceptable. Trying to re-write our Constitution, in more ways than any Legislature in Alaska history, for partisan gain, is unacceptable. It's time for a change.

With your support we can work together, diligently and thoughtfully, to enter a better era of politics. We can create real opportunity by mandating small class sizes; by funding a vibrant university and fully staffed Pioneers' Homes; by ceasing the Legislature's attack on women's rights and our foster children; by protecting the lands and waters we fish, hunt and recreation; by healing the rural-urban divide; and by keeping our communities safe.

As a citizen I've worked hard on legislative and local issues for our community groups. If you'll honor me with your vote, I'd like to work on these issues for you.

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